

Torture Roulette: Why Some Kids Are More Obedient Than Others

It's important for youth to understand the methods by which parent-slavers force them to obey. Torture roulette is an especially cruel method that parent-slavers use to make kids obey by preying on their fear of unpredictable harm. Torture roulette is a psychological torture technique that is widely used by today's "modern" parents because of its effectiveness in controlling the behavior of kids. The definition of torture roulette is "varying the type, frequency, severity, and time of punishment without warning the kid beforehand." In this way, punishments appear to the youth to be randomized and without explanation, leading to increasing terror and uncertainty and a desperate clinging to obedience to prevent abuse. In this section, we use the term randomized as shorthand for the full definition, knowing that we really mean the full definition.

Parent-slavers control kids behavior with torture roulette by keeping them in the dark about the consequences of disobeying. By randomizing the type of punishment, frequency of punishment, severity of punishment, duration of punishment, and time at which the punishment is administered, the parent-slaver creates an environment where the kid is constantly afraid of what the parent might do in response to disobedience. The inability to predict the type of punishment, severity of punishment, duration of punishment, time at which they will be punished, and whether or not they will be punished is deeply destructive to a person's ability to resist slavery.

Without the ability to judge for themselves how viciously their parents will react to their disobedience and what exactly their parents will do, kids are left with the terrifying choice to either obey or face unexpected, unexplained, catastrophic harm. Torture roulette is so effective that today there are very many hyper-obedient kids who bend over backwards to please their parents. There are very few kids today that are rebellious to the degree that kids were fifty, seventy, and ninety years ago, and that is partly because of torture roulette. When up against these cruel methods, it is no wonder that many youth suck up to their parent-slavers, grovel before them, and debase themselves. Phrases such as "never make mom angry," "don't get dad on your case," and "please don't get mom involved" are ones that every kid knows.

Youth can beat these cruel tactics because torture roulette is just a more vicious type of obedience training. Torture roulette can be fully beaten using the strategies listed in DWYW Issue 8 that work against obedience training. Kids facing torture roulette might want to read the two recommended books, *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith and *The 48 Laws of Power* by Robert Greene, and practice deliberate disobedience using "The Method" from DWYW Issue 3. While this is a good start, kids should still read and follow the

instructions in the section of Issue 8 on obedience training in order to most effectively beat torture roulette.

Changing the Type of Punishment

Changing the type of punishment is one way that today's parent-slavers are far more vicious than the old. Examples of different common punishment types include grounding (imprisonment), beatings, chores (forced labor), public shaming, destroying social networks (refusing to let them hang out with friends), apologies, boarding school, framing (framing a kid for a crime and getting them sent to prison on false charges), physical torture, and wilderness camps (getting kidnapped). Switching between these punishments and informing the kid after the fact will always appear terrifying to the kid. Such an evil method of treating one's kid is typical of modern parents and their sick obsession with enforcing obedience. As time has evolved, oppression has evolved too, and parent-slavers have discovered that varying the type of punishment for disobedience with no warning or explanation is a very effective way of forcing kids to obey.

The inability to understand which punishment will come next makes this a very frightening aspect of torture roulette. Kids without understanding what comes next will be paralyzed with fear at what their parents will do, knowing that it will be very bad but without the information to soothe their nerves.

The parent's refusal to tell the kid what is coming next or even explain why they are doing what they do is the lynchpin of this method. Fear has a much stronger effect on people when they are missing information, and it's very common for the kid to not even know why they are afraid. This is not because the kid is stupid; the kid is just as smart as any adult. The kid doesn't know why they're afraid because they have so little information, while the parent who owns them has seemingly gone crazy. One of the reasons torture roulette is so effective is because kids are told "you can trust me, I am here for you," "I will always love you," and "I would never do anything to hurt you" from an early age, but they also have all information withheld from them and so are prevented from accurately predicting their parent-slavers' actions. Combined with torture roulette, this creates contradictory information where what the parent repeatedly tells them (I love you and would never do anything to hurt you, trust me) clashes with the parents' real behavior and creates an environment of fear without cause.

Changing the Frequency of Punishment

Changing the frequency of punishment is one thing that parent-slavers do to make kids obey out of gratitude. In this case, parents choose not to punish their kids in order to make them like them more or be grateful for the reprieve. While this may seem like progress on the surface, the legal structure of their relationship doesn't change. The kid is still legally a slave, no matter what the parent pretends. In this

case, the kid is either encouraged to disobey more (a good thing) or suspicious of why the parent didn't discipline them (also a good thing). By changing up the frequency of punishment, the parent brainwashes the kid into thinking that they are selectively benevolent instead of mostly cruel.

It is cruel for a parent to harm their kids for refusing to follow their orders like good little slaves. Kids are under no moral obligation to obey their parents, and in fact, they would benefit from never ever obeying. Parents should convince their kids without coercion if they want them to do something. The current slavery that kids suffer under is a perversion of the natural order of things. Reducing the frequency of "punishment" does not make a parent any less cruel, because what they are really doing is constantly committing crimes against the kid in order to make them do exactly what they want. Reducing the number of crimes does not make the rest of the crimes go away, nor does it make them stop. All "punishments" are human rights violations, and kids should never have to obey their parents. Kids are under no moral obligation to obey their parents; any laws that say otherwise simply reinforce slavery.

Changing the Severity of Punishment

Changing the severity of punishment is another way in which parent slavers force their kids to obey. When a kid might receive either a slap for eating dinner early or a broken leg, it reinforces the obedience training that parents are already making their kid undergo. The terrifying prospect of an unpredictable and extremely severe punishment is enough to make many kids obey without question.

It is common for parent-slavers today to "restrain their temper" (as if their monstrous inclination to commit violent acts upon their kids is somehow their kids' fault) and give light "punishments" for repeated acts of disobedience and then "snap" all at once. In these cases, parents can even go from slapping a child who does not do what they want to breaking their leg in three places, permanently crippling them for life. In these cases, a kid can call a parent a bad word, and the parent will go from having never hit them before to brutally murdering them. In these cases, the parent-slaver can seek an incredibly cruel and inventive way to physically and permanently damage their kid as "retribution" for having "tested their patience for so long."

Other code phrases that parent-slavers use that can indicate this sort of torture roulette include "being patient," "taking a deep breath," "finding my inner peace," and any and all phrases that imply that the parent-slaver is forgiving or patient but full of anger and frustration and trying (successfully or not) not to take it out on their kid.

This subset of torture roulette is truly unpredictable; safety in these houses cannot be guaranteed. Kids in households where parent-slavers randomize the severity of punishment need to leave as soon as possible because these parents are very dangerous and life-altering or crippling injuries are common.

Changing the Duration of Punishment

Changing the duration of a beating from short to long can very effectively change a kid's perception of the violence visited upon them. A short beating can produce resistance because a kid will know that when the violence is said and done, it will be over. A day of chores is worth much less than two years of chores. A year of turning over your income from your part-time (or full-time) job to your parent-slavers is much worse than a month of doing the same. In this case, kids can decide to take risks of disobedience proportional to the beating, knowing that it will be worth it once the beating is over. By randomly varying the duration of the beating, parent-slavers remove a kid's ability to judge whether the act of disobedience will be worth the beating. Under these circumstances, the kid obeys because they now have reduced agency to disobey.

This tactic applies to more than just beatings. Grounding, forced labor, and torture such as kneeling on rice or bottle caps are often used as punishment, and their durations are often randomly varied by parent-slavers in order to produce the same obedience effect.

Changing the Time of Punishment

One very insidious way that parent-slavers use torture roulette to force kids to obey is by changing the time of punishment without warning or explanation. In this case, the kid is always punished for disobedience, but they are never told when. This means that a kid could not go punished for an act of disobedience for a year, only to find themselves with a beating on the first day of the second year, with no explanation or warning. This is terrifying, cruel, and inhumane, and yet this strategy is the most common of all the aspects of torture roulette listed.

Parent-slavers will stop at nothing in their cruel quest to subjugate their human property, and so this cruel aspect of torture roulette is at the forefront of today's parenting.

The Struggle of Rich Kids

One very misunderstood struggle of youth is that of "rich kids." The term "rich kids" is more accurately rephrased as "kids born to wealthy parents." There are no rich kids, because no rich parent-slaver would ever give their kid the financial power to oppose them. Instead, rich kids are poorer and more financially unstable than adults who earn the minimum wage; their finances are restricted to small handouts from

their parents, like treats for a dog. We use the term “rich kids” in this section as a shorthand, but we really mean “the kids of rich parents.”

“Rich kids” face unique barriers, and the first is their parents exploiting them through slave labor to boost their own reputations. Rich parent-slavers often force their kids to do “prestigious” things to bolster their own reputation. Piano, violin, painting, mathematics, chess, robotics, sciences, medicine, and so on and so forth. These activities offer no short- or long-term tangible benefit to the kid but greatly benefit the rich parent’s reputation. Rich parent-slavers put their kids through an endless hell of orders in which the sole purpose of the kid becomes to obey. “Rich kids” live lives that are filled to the maximum with obedience, from sunup until sundown. What to wear, how to act, what their hobbies are, how to speak, who their friends are, if they have friends, and how to think are all determined by rich parent-slavers who use their unique privileges of both money and free time to bend their kids to their will.

“Rich kids” often consider themselves “failures” because their entire life has been built around a metric of pleasing their parent-slavers, against their will. Rich kids are forced to dance like puppets on strings to an unhappy tune. By creating a false metric for what constitutes a good childhood, rich-parent slavers judge their kids to be smart or dumb, hardworking or lazy, kind or mean, and more. They create a false reality in which obedience is good and disobedience is evil. Rich parents also benefit from this false metric because it appears to other parent-slavers that they are “setting their child up for success” or “providing them with opportunities,” while in reality they are just ordering their unhappy slave around.

Rich kids also have a difficult time with visible child abuse. Whereas poor parent-slavers can do anything to their kids, but only in private, rich parent-slavers have no such limitations. The power and money that they have grant them the power to ignore many laws outright, even in public and where there are many witnesses. This dynamic means that rich parent-slavers can do the most egregious things to their kids with witnesses around and never get charged. Rape, torture, beatings, slavery, and human trafficking can all be done to kids with many witnesses around, and as long as a parent-slaver is rich enough to pay, there won’t be charges or convictions. Would-be witnesses can be paid off or intimidated with lawsuits and threats of prosecution or financial pressure; witnesses lying about what happened can be paid for and summoned to exonerate the rich parent-slaver; judges can be bribed; clerks can “forget” to enter paperwork into the system; court proceedings can be stalled, court records can be lost, court officials can falsify statements; lawyers both defending and prosecuting can be bought; police can falsify police statements as they write them down; and much more in the US. This is true even in better court systems that are structured to reduce real corruption (both reported and unreported), because even in the best countries, court officials are not accountable

to youth in any way. In this way, rich-parent slavers weaponize their power and wealth to hurt their kids.

Rich kids are often blamed for their parents' sins, but the crime of the father is not the crime of the son. Rich kids deserve youth liberation too; all kids do, without exception. Kids should never be punished for their parents' crimes. Kids should also not be punished if their parents rope them up in their crimes, since the law itself says that they cannot escape their parents and be freedpeople. This is especially important for the kids of rich parent-slavers, who will often be witnesses to crimes committed by their parents.

Rich kids also face the troubled teen industry. Rich parents can literally pay for their kids to be kidnapped and dragged off to a concentration camp in the middle of nowhere. Called "residential treatment centers," "therapeutic boarding schools," "juvenile boot camps," "behavior modification programs," and "wilderness programs," these concentration camps brutalize and torture youth under the guise of mental health treatment. In these hellholes, rich kids are brainwashed, forcibly drugged, raped, beaten, forced to do labor, and subjected to all sorts of human rights violations.

Most people only see the dollar sign behind the jacket of a rich kid without ever wondering whether that kid has any real money or income to speak of. Most people never wonder about the 16-hour days of forced labor that rich kids spend on activities decided on by their parent-slavers. Most people never consider the fact that all the money and power rich parents have can be used to oppress their own kids. Rich kids are not rich; they are poor, and they are victims of rich and powerful slavers. These slavers use their money and power to oppress their kids without limit. There are endless ways in which rich parent-slavers weaponize their own money and power against their kids.

Rich kids are deserving of freedom, just like every other youth. Rich kids don't deserve to be slaves; they deserve to be free. They have a human right to decide what they do with their own time; they have a right not to be kidnapped; and they have a right to be immune to their parents weaponizing their money and power against them. Every kid, rich and poor, deserves to be born free.

Abolish the Voting Age All at Once

One of the ideas being floated around the youth rights movement right now is the idea of slowly lowering the voting age. First to sixteen, then to fourteen, then "maybe further." What this really means is a bunch of oppressors putting an end to youth liberationist organizing by satisfying the anger of older youth liberationists and spitting on the efforts of younger ones. Slowly lowering the voting age divides the youth vote and creates artificial divisions and rivalries, and by doing this, these

malicious adults will change the definitions of adulthood and kill the youth liberationist movement in the cradle. For example, the voting age in the United States was previously 21 before it was lowered in 1971. The age of majority followed, and now American 18- to 21-year-olds consider themselves to be adults. Even though they can easily fit the definition of youth and have spent most of their lives as youth, they now consider themselves to be adults. While those above 18 are now freedpeople, those below 18 are far more oppressed than they were before 1971. In reality, slowly lowering the voting age shifted the definitions of youth and adulthood to pave the way for greater oppression for those below age 18.

We stand on the eve of another great wave of slowly lowering the voting age, perhaps for military purposes or some other nefarious political purpose disguised as youth liberationist rhetoric. We cannot let this stand. A complete abolition of the voting age is the key to youth liberation and the key to a vote for all youth. More than that, the right to vote is a human right. It is ours at the moment we are born, and it is what we are owed. We are entitled to the right to vote, and we demand it not out of greed but because it is ours by birthright. Slowly lowering the voting age is a ploy to deny youth their human right to vote. Even the term “slowly” doesn’t mean anything; it’s just an excuse for more oppression. The last time the voting age was lowered was in 1971, and it’s been over fifty years since then. The voting age has not been lowered again. Any delays in lowering the voting age are human rights violations; we want our vote, and we want it now.

“Slowly lowering the voting age” is code for oppression by eliminating political support for youth liberation. Such laws move an imaginary line to turn youth into adults and then say that the remaining youth deserve greater oppression. Indeed, this is what has happened. The youth who lived before 1971 were far freer (but still slaves) than the youth of today. Slowly lowering the voting age is a tool of parent-slavers to justify the new controls over youth, which were created in the past half century. The next wave of oppressive controls after lowering the voting age to 16 will make youth cry themselves to sleep, dreaming of the world before the lowering. The people 16 and older will be freedpeople, and those below 16 will have their slavery become much worse. It can always get worse, and if this slow lowering of the voting age happens a second time, it will get worse. This time, it will get unthinkable worse.

As youth liberationists, we must fight off this co-option before we become complicit in our oppression. The oppression of people under 16 is the same as the oppression of people ages 16–18. Youth at birth deserve freedom just as much as youth at age four; youth at age four deserve freedom just as much as youth at age ten; and youth at age ten deserve freedom just as much as youth at age seventeen. Youth liberation will only happen through the complete emancipation of youth from slavery and the granting of the right to vote from birth.

The only way to win is together, so we must achieve the abolition of the voting age all at once. We must abolish the voting age all at once and grant every youth the right to vote from birth. No co-option, no oppression, no future promises. We are entitled to the right to vote from birth; we are owed that right, and we will not be denied it.